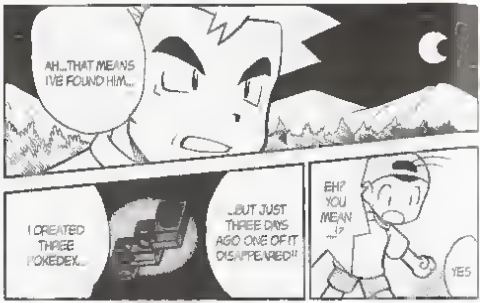
WHA... WHAT IS THAT, PROFESSOR OAK!?
THIS IS A MINI-COMPUTER USED TO RECORD INFORMATION OF POKEMON
THE NEW POKEDEX.
SO YOU WANT TO KNOW IF THE GUY I FOUGHT WAS HOLDING SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
HMM, COME TO THINK OF IT...
...HE WAS HIDING SOMETHING BEHIND HIS BACK WE WERE FIGHTING



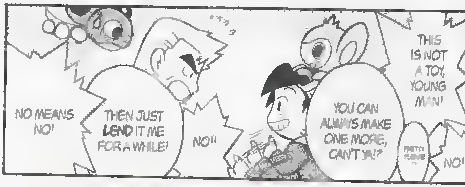
CHAPTER 95

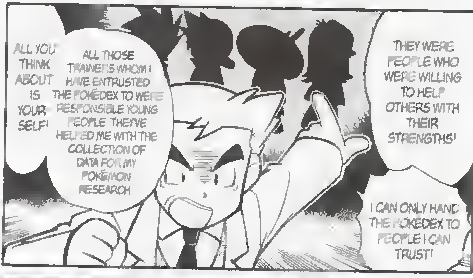
FUME! STANTLER, FUME!

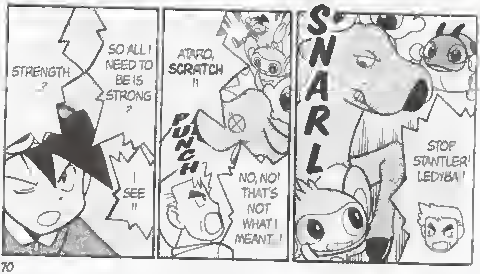
PROFESSOR OAK'S PLACE..."
YES, THAT'S THE RESEARCH CENTER WHERE I ASKED YOU TO DELIVER THE INFORMATION TO.
THE ONE IN CHERRYGROVE CITY IS ACTUALLY MY SECOND RESEARCH FACILITY.
OAK INTL. RESEARCH CENTER
I USUALLY STAY THERE WHEN I HAVE TO COME TO NEW BARK TOWN FOR THE RECORDING OF THE RADIO SHOW.
GOLD, PROFESSOR OAK'S HOME IS ACTUALLY IN PALLET TOWN. HE ONLY COMES TO JOHTO FOR WORK.
BUT HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, DAISY, STAYS IN PALLET TOWN...
FLAP
FLAP
YEAH, YEAH. THAT'S VERY NICE TO KNOW, GRANT.
BUT I'M MORE INTERESTED ABOUT THAT POKÉDEX.
DOES IT HAVE ANY MECHANISM IN IT THAT HELPS A TRAINER IN BATTLE, PROFESSOR?
YES, BUT OF COURSE
YOU CAN CHECK UP THE OPPONENT'S STRENGTH AND HIS POKÉMON'S ATTACKS DURING A BATTLE

I KNEW IT
SO THAT THIEF WAS TRYING TO CHECK EXPLOTARO'S STRENGTH AND USE TOTODILE'S ATTACKS AGAINST ME
IN ANY CASE, GOLD, IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE CALLED...? I'M GLAD TO HAVE CONFIRMED THIS MATTER WITH YOU
NOW THE POLICE ...
WAIT! HOLD ON A SEC!!
I ACTUALLY WANTED TO MEET YOU TO GET MARY'S AUTOGRAPH.
Mary
YOU KNOW THE IDOL YOU ARE DOING THAT RADIO SHOW WITH?
GOL.. GOLD?
...BUT NOW THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT I WANT MORE.
I WANT THAT POKÉDEX YOU HAVE!
POINT

WHAT ARE YA SAYIN' ...!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING GOLD!!
Sorry
GRANT I'M SER IOUS!
I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR. PLEASE FORGIVE HIM! HE MUST BE CONFUSED AFTER ALL THAT'VE HAPPENED
WELL, THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF THESE POKEDEX, AND ONE IS STOLEN ..
MOREOVER, I DID NOT CREATE THEM FOR USE IN BATTLES. THE POKEDEXS ARE MEANT FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES...
I'M SORRY, GOLD, BUT I CANNOT HAND THIS TO YOU
OH, I KNOW THAT
BUT I'VE ALREADY DECIDED THAT I MUST NAB THAT FELLA MYSELF AND NOTHING'S GONNA CHANGE MY MIND
HOWEVER, IF I WERE TO FIGHT HIM WITHOUT A POKEDEX WOULDN'T I BE AT A DISADVANTAGE ?
THAT'S WHY I NEED IT
I REALLY WANT TO BETTLE THIS MYSELF, PROFESSOR! THIS IS MY ONLY REASON!


NO MEANS NO!
THEN JUST LEND IT ME FOR A WHILE!
NO!!
YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE ONE MORE, CAN'T YA!?
THIS IS NOT A TOY, YOUNG MAN!
NO!!


ALL YOU THINK ABOUT IS YOURSELF!
ALL THOSE TRAINERS WHOM I HAVE ENTRUSTED THE POKEDEX TO WERE RESPONSIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE. THEY'VE HELPED ME WITH THE COLLECTION OF DATA FOR MY POKEMON RESEARCH.
THEY WERE PEOPLE WHO WERE WILLING TO HELP OTHERS WITH THEIR STRENGTHS!
I CAN ONLY HAND THE POKEDEX TO PEOPLE I CAN TRUST!

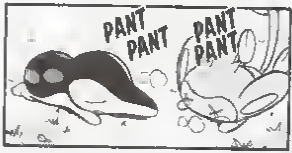

STRENGTH...?
SO ALL I NEED TO BE IS STRONG?
I SEE!!
ATARO, SCRATCH!!
PUNCH
NO, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
SNARL
STOP STANTLER! LEDYBA!!

THERE, ATARO!
YOU MADE ME DO THIS!!
CHA!
STANTLER, CONFUSE RAY!
KAA!
!!
WHA...!?
ATARO!!
GOT CHA!
POM

YOU DON'T GET IT DO YOU? EVEN IF YOU HAD DEFEATED ME I WILL STILL NOT HAND THIS OVER TO YOU
I HAVE NO INTENTION TO.
THIS IS NOT FAIR!!
I WOULD HAVE WON IF I HAD THAT THING!
GOOD GOD!
PARDON ME FOR BEING FRANK GOLD, BUT A PERSON LIKE YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO USE THE POKEDEX EFFECTIVELY
WHAT'D YOU SAY!?
FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, YOU'RE THE SORT OF PERSON WHO WILL THRUST TOWARDS YOUR GOAL REGARDLESS OF THE COSTS.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, RESILIENCE IS A GOOD THING... HOWEVER...
...IF THE GOAL IS ALL THAT YOU CARE ABOUT YOU WILL LOSE TRACK OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND YOU AND WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT
THAT'S WHY I CANNOT ENTRUST THIS TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU

IF I HAD GIVEN THIS POKÉDEX TO YOU...
...IT WILL BE REDUCED TO NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL IN BATTLE
GRRR
A POKÉDEX WOULD BE WASTED IN YOUR HANDS!
TURN
GOLD...
HUH! WELL WHO NEEDS YOUR STUPID INVENTION!
I WILL BECOME A POWERFUL TRAINER, WITH OR WITHOUT THAT THING!
JUST YOU WAIT, OLD MAN!!
GOLD!
THUMP
...

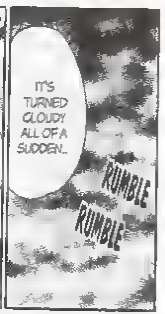
GOLD, I KNOW THAT WE NEED TRAINING TO BECOME STRONGER..
DASH DASH
...BUT EVEN SO, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE WORKING THEM A LITTLE TOO HARD?


PANT PANT
PANT PANT

RIGHT! NOW GIVE ME A HUNDRED FROG LEAPS!!

GOLD, GIVE THEM A BREAK!
THEY HAVE TRAINED HARD ENOUGH..
NO CAN DO, GRANT
IF I CAN'T EVEN BEAT THAT OLD MAN HOW CAN I WIN THAT GUY?

RUMBLE RUMBLE
AH...

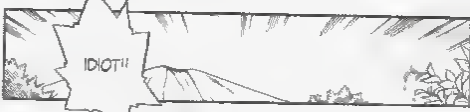

IT'S TURNED CLOUDY ALL OF A SUDDEN..
RUMBLE RUMBLE

BOOM!
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
WHAT A STORM!
DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO RAIN...
...SO HEAVILY!
WHOA! LOOK AT ALL THAT MUD!!
HUH!? THIS TENT LOOKS LIKE GRANT'S...!!
BUT WHERE...
SOME.. SOMEONE...
EH!?
GRANT!?
WHAT'S HAPPENED!? WHERE'S THE OTHER YOUNG MAN?
HE, HE'S...

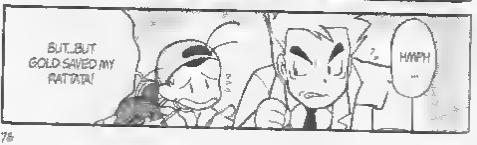
HE'S JUMPED INTO THE FLOODING RIVER TO SAVE MY RATTATA!!
WHAT!?
HURRY, STANTLER!!
DASH
SPLASH SPLASH
POP POP POP POP POP
RATTATA MANAGED TO REACH THE BANK SAFELY BY JUMPING ON THE FLOATING LOGS...
IT'S JUST US NOW, EXPLOTARO. CAN YOU JUMP?
OH DEAR, HE MUST BE EXHAUSTED FROM THE TRAINING...
DON'T WORRY, EXPLOTARO..
PONG
I'LL GET YA OUTTA HERE!
AND LET YOU MEET TOTODILE AGAIN!

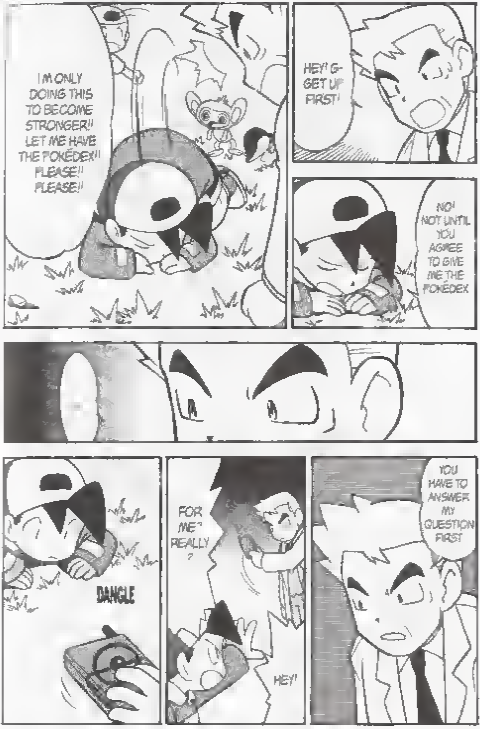
KA!
BOING
BOING
THERE!
THUMP
NOW FOR MY..
AH!
BUMP!
MY HANDS!
SLIP!
FWOOSHH!
A WATER-FALL!
SOMEBODY HELP!!

FLAP FLAP FLAP
HUH...
WH...?
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
WHAT
THIS-


IDIOT!!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO RECKLESS? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT COULDVE HAPPEN IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE?
CALM DOWN PROFESSOR.
GRRR!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF ALL THAT DIGGING TRAINING YOU HAD THAT CAUSED ALL THESE EROSIONS! NO WONDER YOUR TENT GOT STUCK IN THE MUD, TOO

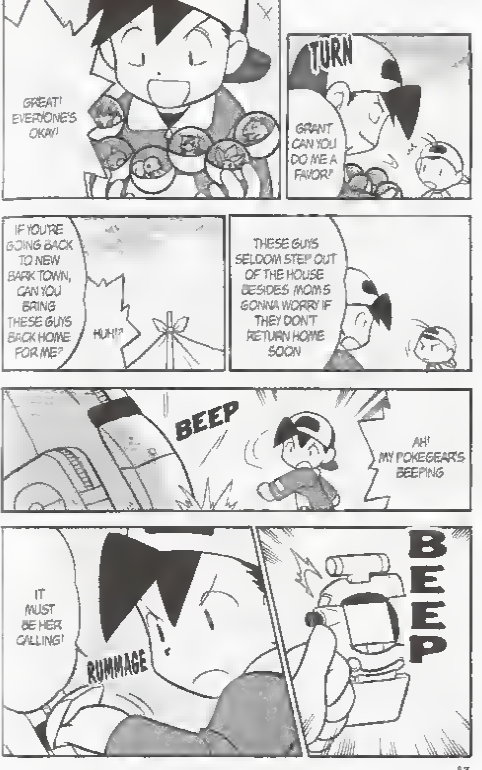

BUT...BUT GOLD SAVED MY RATTATA!
HMPH ...


I'M ONLY DOING THIS TO BECOME STRONGER!! LET ME HAVE THE POKEDEX!! PLEASE!! PLEASE!!
HEY! G-GET UP FIRST!
NO! NOT UNTIL YOU AGREE TO GIVE ME THE POKEDEX
DANGLE
FOR ME? REALLY?
HEY!
YOU HAVE TO ANSWER MY QUESTION FIRST

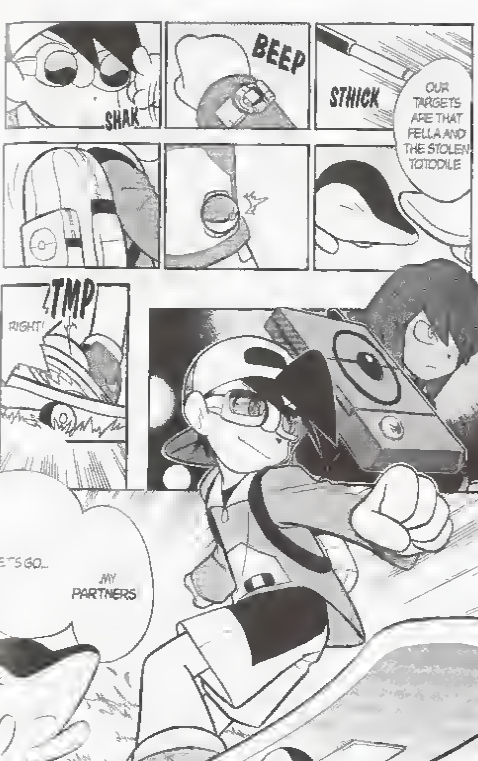
WHAT DO YOU SEE THE POKEMON AS?
I HAVE SEEN TRAINERS WHO TREAT THEIR POKEMON AS COMPANIONS OR FRIENDS..
COMPANIONS
FRIENDS
..SO TELL ME YOUR ANSWER, IN YOUR OWN WORDS
...
I'M WAITING...
COMPANIONS OR FRIENDS, HUH? WELL, I THINK DIFFERENTLY!
SNIFF

I MET HIM ONLY YESTERDAY AT PROFESSOR ELM'S PLACE
AS FOR EXPLOTARO...
TAROS BEEN WITH ME ALL MY LIFE! HE'S LIKE FAMILY!
THAT GUY MAY HAVE ESCAPED, BUT WE'VE DECIDED TO BATTLE TOGETHER FROM NOW ON
ALTHOUGH IT WAS OUR FIRST MEETING WE FOUGHT TOGETHER.
I WANTED TO NAB THE THIEF WHILE EXPLOTARO HERE WANTED TO GET HIS BUDDY BACK.
PARTNERS
WE WORK ALONGSIDE FOR THE SAME GOALS, BECAUSE
..WE ARE PARTNERS!
POKÉMON ARE MY PARTNERS!
EVEN IF I MEET NEW POKÉMON ALONG THE WAY I WILL STILL TREAT THEM THE SAME WAY, BECAUSE TO ME...
I SEE.
PARTNERS..

GOOD ANSWER. VERY WELL, YOU CAN HAVE THIS JUST THIS ONCE!
SMILE
AL RIGHT! LET'S GO!
I HAVE TO RETURN TO NEW BARK TOWN AND VISIT PROFESSOR ELM AT THE HOSPITAL
GUESS WE SHALL HAVE TO PART HERE THEN, GRANT
I'M GONNA RETRIEVE MY BAG AND TOTODILE!
BAG?
BY ANY CHANCE, DO YOU MEAN THIS BAG?!
MY BAG! WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
I FOUND IT AT THE RIVERSIDE, ON MY WAY HERE...
I WAS GOING TO BRING IT TO THE POLICE..


GREAT! EVERYONE'S OKAY!
TURN
GRANT CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
IF YOU'RE GOING BACK TO NEW BARK TOWN, CAN YOU BRING THESE GUYS BACK HOME FOR ME?
HUH!?
THESE GUYS SELDOM STEP OUT OF THE HOUSE BESIDES MOM'S GONNA WORRY IF THEY DON'T RETURN HOME SOON
BEEP
AH! MY POKEGEAR'S BEEPING
IT MUST BE HER CALLING!
RUMMAGE
BEEP

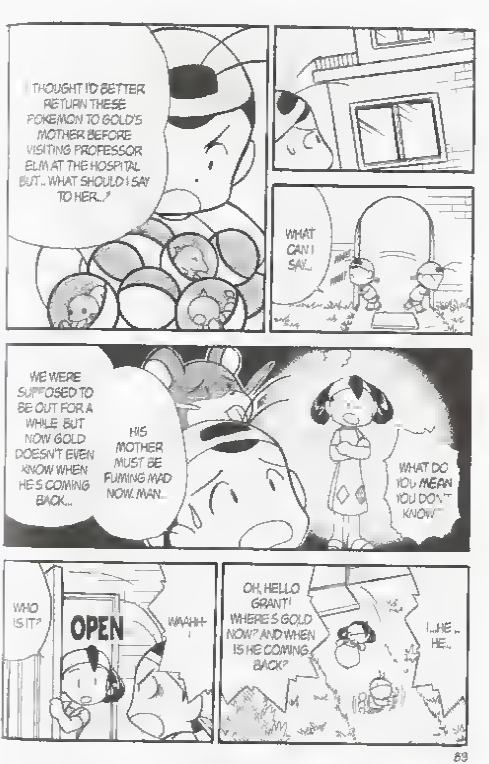
HELLO ?
MOM" SORRY THAT I DIDN'T CALL YA... YEAH, THIS MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME...
UM, DON'T WORRY! I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM SOON!
OK! BYE BYE!!
RESTLESS
I'M COUNTING ON THESE TWO ITEMS...
...TO LEAD ME TO THAT FELLA.
SILVER
THERE IS A NAME EMBLAZONED IN THE INTERIOR OF THE GLOVE... SILVER.
SO... THAT GUY'S CALLED SILVER, HUH...
IT'S HUNTING TIME!
BYE, GRANT! SEE YOU UNCLE OAK!
I THOUGHT HE CALLED ME AN OLD MAN
HUH"
THAT YOUNG MAN'S ATTITUDE REALLY CHANGES FAST!


SHAK
BEEP
STHICK
OUR TARGETS ARE THAT FELLA AND THE STOLEN TOTODILE
TMP
RIGHT!
LET'S GO... MY PARTNERS

NEW BARK TOWN GENERAL HOSPITAL
NEW BARK GENERAL HOSPITAL
AHHH...OW, OW OW!
ARE YOU OKAY?
PROFESSOR ELM!
SIGH...THIS IS THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE!
WHY DIDN'T YOU NOTICE THERE WAS A THIEF IN THE CENTER?
I... GUESS I WAS TOO ENGROSSED IN MY RESEARCH...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I AM GLAD THAT TOTODILE WAS STOLEN INSTEAD OF THIS EGG..
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT..
DING!
AH!

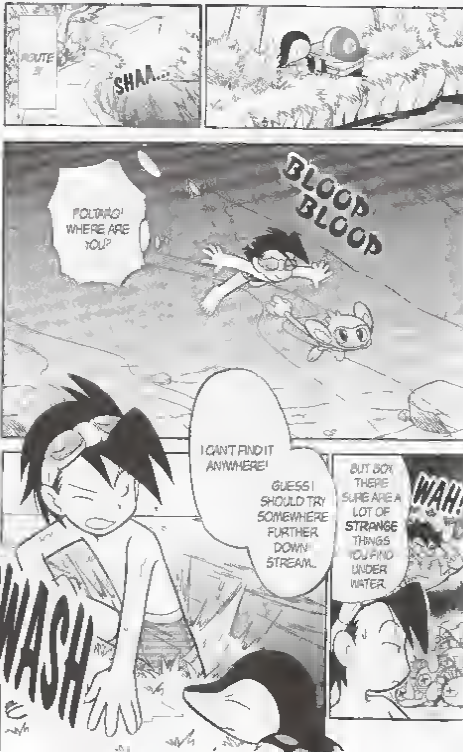
PING
YO PROFESSOR ELM!!
IT'S YOU!!
THE NAME'S GOLD. SORRY WE WEREN'T EXACTLY IN A SITUATION THAT ALLOWED A SELF-INTRODUCTION BACK THERE. HOW'S YOUR BACK?
SHOCK
I REALLY HAD A HARD TIME FINDING THE HOSPITAL'S NUMBER.
OKAY, I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
YOUR TOTODILE WAS STOLEN AND HASN'T BEEN FOUND YET.
COLLAPSE
AND FOR SOME REASON, THIS GUY HERE IS WITH ME NOW.
WE HAVE DECIDED TO NAB THE THIEF TOGETHER, SO PLEASE ALLOW HIM TO FOLLOW ME IN THE MEANTIME.
OVER AND OUT!

CHAPTER 96
WHO'S THE LEADER, DONPHAN?

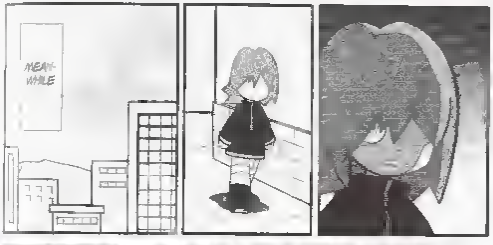

I THOUGHT I'D BETTER RETURN THESE POKEMON TO GOLD'S MOTHER BEFORE VISITING PROFESSOR ELM AT THE HOSPITAL BUT... WHAT SHOULD I SAY TO HER...?
WHAT CAN I SAY...
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT FOR A WHILE, BUT NOW GOLD DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHEN HE'S COMING BACK...
HIS MOTHER MUST BE FUMING MAD NOW, MAN...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW!?
WHO IS IT?
OPEN
WAAH!!
OH, HELLO GRANT! WHERE'S GOLD NOW? AND WHEN IS HE COMING BACK?
...HE... HE...

OH WELL GUESS HE'LL BE BACK WHEN HE WANTS TO
TURN
COLLAPSE
HIS MOTHER DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND AT ALL!
LIKE MOTHER LIKE SON!?
OH! MA'AM THESE ARE THE POKÉMON THAT GOLD WANTED ME TO BRING BACK
AH, THANK YOU SO MUCH
EH,
STRANGE
WHAT'S WRONG?
ONE IS MISSING!
A POLIWAG CALLED POLTARO!

WHAAAT ~~!?
I'M SORRY, POLTARO
I SHOULD HAVE LOOKED MORE CAREFULLY.
WAS SO HAPPY TO HAVE RETRIEVED MY BAG THAT I FORGOT TO CHECK IF EVERYONE WAS THERE
ARE YOU SURE, GRANT !?
I WAS THINKING IF POLTARO MIGHT HAVE FALLEN INTO THE RIVER.
ACCORDING TO PROFESSOR OAK, HE FOUND YOUR BAG BY THE RIVER BANK WITH ITS ZIPPER OPENED...
WAIT FOR ME POLTARO ! I PROMISE I WILL FIND YOU!
BUT I MUST FIND POLTARO FIRST!
SKID!
I KNOW I WAS SUPPOSED TO HUNT DOWN THAT SILVER FELLA...


ROUTE 31
SHAA...
FOLTAIKO! WHERE ARE YOU?
BLOOP BLOOP
I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE!
GUESS I SHOULD TRY SOMEWHERE FURTHER DOWN STREAM...
BUT BOY THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS YOU FIND UNDER WATER.
WAH!
SWASH

I'M NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP!
I'M LOOKING FOR THAT FELLA, ANYWAY, AND I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I FIND HIM!


MEAN-WHILE

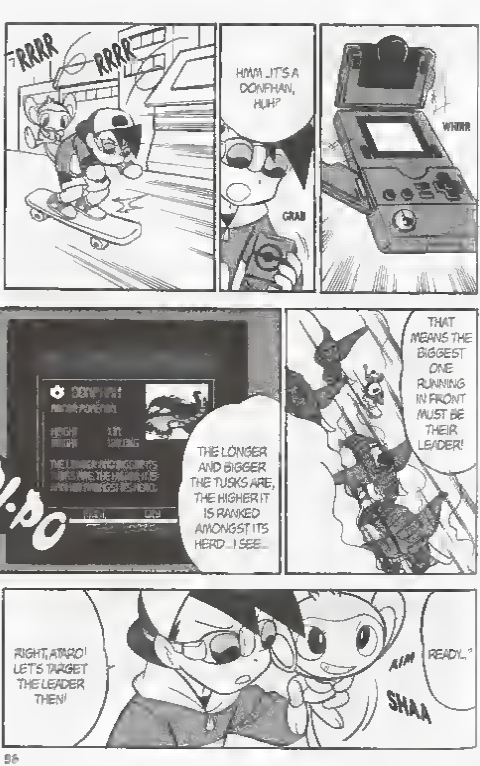
ELM ST. SUSPECT
BONG!

JOHTO REGION VIOLET CITY
MAN...I'M HUNGRY
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
HEH HEH! SO LONG SUCKER!
ROBBER-!! SOMEONE HELP!!!
PANT PANT
SOME-ONE!!
FAMOUS RICE CAKES
MORE SAUCE, PLEASE.
WOW! JUST WHAT I NEEDED! I'LL HAVE ONE OF THOSE FAMOUS VIOLET RICE-CAKES UNCLE
MAN! THIS LOOKS DELICIOUS!
RUMBLE

RUMBLE
POOF
POOF
COUGH
HUH!?
MUD!
HEY! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
IT WASN'T ME. IT WAS THAT GUY ON THE POKEMON!!
GRRR!! NOBODY RUINS MY FAMOUS VIOLET RICE-CAKE AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
THUMP
'OU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!

HEY YOU!! STOP THERE!!
YOUNG MAN ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME GET MY POUCH BACK? I'M GRATEFUL BUT PLEASE DO BE CAREFUL
HUH~? YOUR POUCH?
WHO SAID I WAS GONNA DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
COLLAPSE
I JUST WANT THAT GUY TO PAY FOR ANOTHER RICE-CAKE!
RUMBLE
YO DUDE!

WHAT DID YOU WANT BRAT!?
SINCE I DON'T LIKE TO FIGHT FOR NO REASON, I WON'T TOUCH YOU IF YOU PAY FOR MY NEW RICE-CAKE
SHOVE
WHOA!
HUH! WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN'? GET OUTTA MY WAY!!
GRRR NOW I'M REALLY ANGRY!!
ATARO SCRATCH !!
SWIPE
GET AWAY!! DONPHAN HORN ATTACK!!
WHOA!


RRRR
RRRR
HMM..IT'S A DONPHAN, HUH?
GRAB
WHIRR
DONPHAN
HEIGHT
WEIGHT
THE LONGER AND BIGGER THE TUSKS ARE, THE HIGHER IT IS RANKED AMONGST ITS HERD...I SEE...
PI-PO
THAT MEANS THE BIGGEST ONE RUNNING IN FRONT MUST BE THEIR LEADER!
RIGHT, ATARO! LET'S TARGET THE LEADER THEN!
AIM
SHAA
READY..."

FLING
ATTACK!!
FWHOOSH
WHAT AN IDIOT TO THROW YOUR POKEMON AT THE NOSE OF THE LEADER.
YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT!
TWIST!
WHAT!?

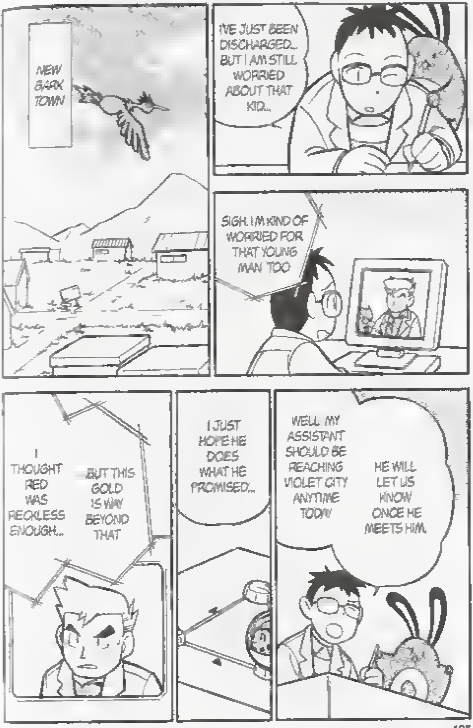
YOU FELL FOR IT, KITARO, RETURN!
BOING BOING
TUUUG
IT'S TAIL!? T-THAT WAS A TRICK!?

HEH! MY KITARO HAS A TAIL STRONGER THAN ITS ARMS AND LEGS!
BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE AMAZED!
YOUR LEADER OF THE HEIRD IS GOING HAYWIRE-!!

WHOOOA!!
GRIP
STAB

RUMBLE
SCREECH
TURN
FLING
PAFF
GRIN
THANKS FOR THE PACKAGE DUDE. SEE YA LATER!

MUAHAHA!
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
MAN! THIS STUFF'S GREAT!
MUNCH MUNCH!
THANKS FOR THE TREAT!!
IT FEELS SO GOOD TO DO A GOOD DEED! BUT YOU KNOW ME, WHEN I SAW THAT ROBBER, I JUST KNEW I HAD TO STOP HIM!
LIAR, LIAR.
MY NAME IS EARL. I HAVE A POKEMON TUITION CENTER IN VIOLET CITY...
THANK GOODNESS THE DOCUMENTS IN THE POUCH ARE NOT LOST
I'M GOING TO BE MEETING UP WITH PROFESSOR ELM'S ASSISTANT TODAY
PUTUP
ARE YOU SURE!? PROFESSOR ELM'S ASSISTANT IS REALLY COMING!?
WHAT!? STOP SHAKING!
SPIN SPIN SPIN


NEW BARK TOWN
I'VE JUST BEEN DISCHARGED... BUT I AM STILL WORRIED ABOUT THAT KID...
SIGH. I'M KIND OF WORRIED FOR THAT YOUNG MAN TOO
I THOUGHT RED WAS RECKLESS ENOUGH... BUT THIS GOLD IS WAY BEYOND THAT
I JUST HOPE HE DOES WHAT HE PROMISED...
WELL, MY ASSISTANT SHOULD BE REACHING VIOLET CITY ANYTIME TODAY
HE WILL LET US KNOW ONCE HE MEETS HIM.

OH NO! HE MUST BE ANGRY THAT I TOOK EXPLOTARO WITHOUT ASKING. I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO MOVE HIM WITH MY SINCERITY..
HEY ROBBER!!
GIDDY
I AM GOLD, FROM NEW BARK TOWN
I AM NOW IN THE MIDST OF HUNTING DOWN A THIEF. DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THIS IN YOUR GROUP!?
HE'S GOT RED-HAIR, LAST SEEN WITH A TOTODILE
TADAH
THIS IS THE GUY WHO STOLE THE POKÉMON FROM PROFESSOR ELM'S CENTER!